

# Civic Engagement Update

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## Welcome to a new program year and a new update!

Welcome to the 2007-2008 program year! It's an exciting and busy time, and we're hoping that you'll find this civic engagement update useful in the early stages of your team's C.E. process.

These updates are a chance to share new resources and best practices associated with the *Roadmap to Civic*

*Engagement*, as well as address technical assistance needs that arise for teams during the year. We also hope that this update will serve as a forum for you to share the projects your teams and their youth partners create.

Let us know if you have any feedback about this new update; we want it to be useful for you!

### Contribute to the Civic Engagement Updates

What's your team doing with civic engagement this program year? Share your success stories and pictures with the rest of the Washington Service Corps! Do you have tips on the C.E. process or suggestions for the next update? We want to hear them!

Please send all stories, pictures, tips, and suggestions to Donna Olson at [dolson@esd.wa.gov](mailto:dolson@esd.wa.gov).

## October 2007 SERVES C.E. Workshops

Every year at the October SERVES there are workshops dedicated to the *Roadmap to Civic Engagement*. This year the workshops are being redesigned based on feedback we gathered from you.

The WSC requires that teams send at least two members to at least one of the member workshops. The two workshops have slightly different focuses to attend to the diverse experiences and needs of members:

### Introduction to the Roadmap to Civic Engagement

**Description:** This workshop will give participants an understanding of the history, purpose, and structure of the *Roadmap*

to *Civic Engagement* and help prepare members to effectively facilitate the curriculum with their teams.

**Objectives:** Participants will understand how and why the *Roadmap* was developed and how it is structured; understand how the goals of each unit build upon each other; and leave with tools to help facilitate the curriculum with their team.

### Facilitating the Roadmap to Civic Engagement with Youth

**Description:** This workshop will give participants an understanding of the history and purpose of the *Roadmap to Civic Engagement* and also prepare members to help effectively facilitate the curriculum with youth.

**Objectives:** Participants will understand how and why the *Roadmap* was developed; understand how the goals of each unit build upon each other; leave with tools to help facilitate the curriculum with youth; and brainstorm ideas for challenges that arise when facilitating the *Roadmap* with youth.

**Project Supervisors** will work with members to choose the most appropriate session to attend. Space available, we will allow as many interested members as possible. These sessions are offered during Sessions 1 & 2 when all sessions offered are repeated. **At least two members from each team are also required** to attend "Youth Facilitation" with Mike Beebe, offered four times.

Please return the CE Member Assignments for workshops by **Monday October 8th** so we can work to accommodate as many members as possible. *Thank you!*



2006-2007 AmeriCorps Leader Jennifer Rice facilitates a civic engagement workshop at the SERVES in October 2006.





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## Roadmap Café Conversation Opportunity to be offered at SERVES!

### Share wisdom & gain inspiration...

This year we will be adding a new civic engagement workshop to our line-up at the October 2007 SERVES. In addition to the required workshops, there will be an optional workshop: a *Roadmap Café Conversation* offered during Session 3, which will be facilitated by Donna Olson, VISTA Leader for the WSC. This workshop will give members an opportunity to explore the *Roadmap* more deeply using the Conversation Café format, which allows participants to choose and prioritize their own topics to explore. All members are invited to attend, but due to the depth of the discussion, it will be most useful for members who have already participated in some of the curriculum. Discussion highlights will be sent out as part of the next Civic Engagement Update.

## What's the big idea?

"So," you say, "I understand that civic engagement training is a requirement for AmeriCorps members. But why the *Roadmap*? Why a youth partner, and why middle-school aged youth?"

The *Roadmap* was designed as a civic engagement service-learning tool. Using research-based principles of service-learning, an active learning experience is facilitated.

Facilitating the

curriculum with youth enables the WSC to double its impact. This reinforces the training for members and extends the reach of civic engagement education to include hundreds of youth, thereby maximizing the benefit to the communities you are serving.

Youth in middle-school are young enough to have an open mind about the subject matter but old enough to understand the concepts. While high

school students could definitely benefit from this type of program, it may be harder to get them to buy in. On the other hand, elementary-aged youth can enjoy the games and the service project, but many of the concepts might be above their level. In short, the *Roadmap* has allowed the WSC to address one of the most pressing needs of youth today: civic engagement.

## The why behind the *Roadmap*

We asked, and you answered.

## PROJECT SUPERVISOR C.E. SURVEY RESULTS

As the program year was just beginning, new WRC/CE VISTA Leader Donna Olson asked Project Supervisors to take a moment to answer some questions about civic engagement. Thanks so much to Supervisors for taking the time to respond during such a busy time! The feedback has been used to help design focused civic engagement workshops at SERVES and will help inform other priorities throughout the year, including this update.

Twenty-two project supervisors from twenty-one teams responded to the survey. Of those teams, nine will not have started the *Roadmap* prior to SERVES, five will be in the middle of the curriculum, and

seven will have finished Unit 6. Members already identified to attend the C.E. workshops are fairly evenly split between returning and new members.

Although all of the teams utilize civic engagement leaders in different ways, many teams have returning members take a leadership role in facilitating the curriculum with their teams. Leaders are also often identified to work closely with youth partners.

There were a wide range of suggested topics for the member workshops, but many supervisors mentioned the need for preparation in facilitating the curriculum, understanding of curriculum

flexibility, and a deeper understanding of the purpose and "big picture" of the *Roadmap*.

Supervisors also had a variety of suggestions for the supervisor workshop, the most common including: finding a youth partner, suggestions from experienced supervisors, and understanding curriculum flexibility.

Thank you again for responding to the survey. It is important to us to evolve technical assistance to best meet your changing and diverse needs. The feedback will continue to guide us throughout the year.

**"The feedback has been used to help design focused civic engagement workshops at SERVES and will help inform other priorities throughout the year."**